

June 15, 20, 25, 2016

Legal Notices

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Notice of Proposed Action

The Bridgeport Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the United States Marine Corps (USMC) are proposing to enhance operations and training proficiency at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) on National Forest System (NFS) Lands in Mono County, CA near the city of Bridgeport. Congress, in Section 5 of Public Law (PL) 100-693, directed that these lands were to be made available for use by the MCMWTC subject to appropriate restrictions for the protection of "the natural, environmental, aesthetic, scientific, cultural, and other resources and values of such lands." The Forest Service currently provides for this use via (1) a 40-year Special Use Permit (SUP) that covers 43,920 acres (referred to as the "Limited Use Area") and expires in 2049; and (2) four "Special Use Areas," comprising approximately 18,000 acres, the use of which is authorized annually in SUPs. Proposed MCMWTC activities in the permit areas are described each year in Annual Operating Plans (AOPs) which are reviewed before authorization by the HTNF and are subject to the terms and conditions of the SUPs. The Proposed Action is needed to allow the use of new vehicles, equipment, and training activities within permitted areas, and it would improve the planning and management of MCMWTC activities on NFS lands by updating and consolidating the existing SUPs under a single long-term SUP. The Proposed Action requires no construction, does not change the boundaries of the permit areas, and would not increase the number of personnel using the MCMWTC. The Proposed Action includes new or modified design features to avoid and minimize the potential impacts of training activities. The USMC and Bridgeport Ranger District have jointly prepared a preliminary environmental assessment describing the Proposed Action and its effects relative to the situation under the current SUPs (no-action alternative). The preliminary environmental analysis is available for review at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=36588>. A copy is also available at the Bridgeport Public Library, 94 N. School St. A Notice of Proposed Action for the Preliminary Environmental Assessment was previously published in the Reno Gazette Journal on May 13, 2016. This second notice and 30-day public comment period is provided to ensure sufficient opportunity for public input. The Forest Service encourages your comments on this Proposed Action, along with supporting rationale that the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision. Your comments will help us prepare an environmental assessment on the Proposed Action. The assessment will be used to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a finding of no significant impact. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218 Subpart A and B. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection under §218. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates of timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period. Written comments must be submitted to: Jim Winfrey, Land Management Planner, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431 or to the facsimile number (775) 355-5399. The office hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00-4:30 Monday-Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to: FS-comments-intermin-humboldt-toiyabe@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and address of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection and will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

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June 25, 2016